

HUNT COUNTRY

vineyards

Docket Clerk
Fruits and Vegetable Programs, AMS
USDA
1400 Independence Ave., SW Stop 243
Washington, DC 20250-0243

April 26, 2005,

Dear Sir:

As a grape grower and winery owner, I am writing to urge you to change the language in Section 1290.4 (Eligible Grant Program) of regulations to implement the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program (SCBGP) of the Specialty Crops Competitiveness Act of 2004.

Specifically we would we ask you to remove the sentence "Priority will be given to fresh specialty crop projects."

We in the wine grape business need these funds and should be entitled to this funding every bit as much as other fruit crops!

Due to changing markets and stiff world competition, many grape growers are facing disappearing markets for some varieties of their grapes and will need some assistance to convert to other varieties.

Thank you for considering my request.

Sincerely,



Arthur C. Hunt